JAMMU AND KASHMIR ON THE PATH OF MODERNISATION.

Qno1. Briefly discuss the major economic reforms introduced by the post-1947 Governments in the State.

Ans: The State of Jammu and Kashmir was among the poorest regions of the Indian subcontinent in 1947. Due to the land reforms introduced by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the peasants were given economic freedom which paved way for their socio-economic advancement. Irrigation was given priority consecutively during the first, second and third Five Year Plans. The construction of roads and buildings received huge impetus after 1947 especially under the Government of Bakshi Ghulam Muhammad. Apart from constructing educational institutions, hospitals, buildings for Government departments, hydroelectric projects, housing colonies and stadiums, Bakshi Ghulam Muhammad also significantly contributed to the establishment of a vast network of roads within the State. Construction of Banihal tunnel designed by German engineers accommodated two-way traffic and resulted in greater flow of trade. Industrial estates were established at Gandhi Nagar (Jammu), Barzulla (Srinagar) and Anantnag at a total capital outlay of 5.26 million for promotion of traditional occupations like handicrafts and handloom. The State held its first Industrial Exhibition in 1955 which opened greater avenues for Kashmiri goods in the market outside the Region and also led to employment opportunities. The Kashmir Chalo Campaign by the Bakshi's Government boosted tourism and film industry in the region.

Qno2: What was the impact of land reforms on rural society?

Ans: The impact of land reforms brought by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on rural society are as under:

1. Land reforms ended the privileges of the landlords, secured the position of the peasant and restored his confidence by making him the owner of the land.
2. Land Reforms introduced new changes in the agricultural setting of the state and encouraged the peasant to make investments in land by making him the direct beneficiary of any such investment.
3. The economic emancipation of the peasant paved way for his social advancement by motivating him to educate his children and avail facilities of better health and cultural advancement.
4. These reforms also aimed at reducing the taxation which was the primary reason for the discontent among the masses during Maharaja's period.

Qno3. Highlight the Education Policy of the Government in Jammu and Kashmir during Bakshi's period.

Ans: This vision of modern education received further impetus during Bakshi's reign with the full financial backing of the Central Government. Following are the main highlights of the the Education Policy of the Government in Jammu and Kashmir during Bakshi's period:

1. The salaries of the teachers were significantly increased and education from primary to University level was made free.
2. A network of educational institutions for primary, middle and the higher education were opened and job oriented education was also incorporated in the curriculum.
3. Textbooks were provided to the poor students and steps were taken to develop languages like Kashmiri, Dogri, and Bhoti apart from other regional languages.
4. System of scholarship was constituted for poor students.
5. Women education received special attention and there was an unprecedented increase in women schools and colleges.
6. Medical and Engineering Colleges were established in Srinagar. National Institute of Technology and Government Medical College were founded during Bakshi's regime.

In 1955, G.M. Sadiq as the Education Minister under Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad drafted the Educational Policy of the State. Mobile schools were also set up for the tribals like Gujjars and Bakkerwals.

Qno4. Write a short note on Jashn-i-Kashmir and Cultural Front.

Ans: (i) ***Jashn-i-Kashmir:*** In September 1956, the Jammu and Kashmir Government hosted first ever festival of Jashn-i-Kashmir which was held throughout the region. It intended to bring to light many aspects of Kashmiri culture and served as a vehicle of contact between Kashmir and the rest of India. It showcased regional theatre, music, poetry, dance of Kashmir as well as of various other Indian States. It played a certain role in the emotional and social development of the state artists and helped them to develop their skills of cooperation and communication.

(ii) ***Cultural Front:*** Cultural Front was an organization which contributed to the development of a syncretic cultural ethos. Writers affiliated with cultural front travelled throughout the region holding drama and theatre,
programmes and activities on themes pertaining to social change, proletariat life, status of women and Hindu Muslim unity, in villages and small towns. Cultural Front was renamed as Cultural Congress in 1949 and began to publish its literary journal Kwang Posh. Important writers of the time were Dina Nath Nadim, Rehman Rahi, Dinoo Bhai Pant, Som Nath Zutshi, Prof. Ram Nath Shastri and Amin Kamil.

Qno5. Discuss the role of state in the promotion of tourism.
Ans: The Kashmir Chalo Campaign by the Bakshi's Government boosted tourism and film industry in the region. Advertisements were used to publicise the state achievements in the sphere of education, healthcare and industry. The Government led by Bakshi took important steps to promote tourism which included opening up publicity wings all over the country, improvements in air services, abolition of permit system, construction of youth hostels and revitalizing hotel arrangements. A series of travel guides were printed and distributed through organizations like school, universities and media throughout India and elsewhere. The Government also built a Tourist Reception Centre in early sixties. Thus, Kashmir came into media gaze about its beautiful landscape and handicrafts. Many block buster movies were shot in Kashmir & places of natural attraction like
Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Kokernag, Verinag and Achabal became favourite destinations for the people worldwide. Construction of Banihal tunnel designed by German Engineers accommodated two-way traffic which further boosted the state tourism.

Qno6. Write a short note on the development of roads and buildings during Bakshi's regime.
Ans: Bakshi Ghulam Muhammad significantly contributed to the establishment of a vast network of roads within the State. Construction of Banihal tunnel designed by German engineers was considered to be one of the greatest achievements of the time. The tunnel accommodated two-way traffic and resulted in greater flow of trade between Kashmir and rest of India. Further, in order to bridge up the rural urban divide the city bus service was started which connected the remote towns and villages. Electrification of the villages and anti-flood measures were also taken up. These developments gave boost to the tourism and the fruit industry. Besides boosting economic growth and creating job opportunities, the road connectivity also increased cultural interactions within and outside the state.

Qno7. What do you mean by Sadar-i-Riyasat?
Ans: In 1952, the Dogra's hereditary position was abolished completely and was replaced by a Constitutional head of the state referred to as Sadar-i- Riyasat. Sadar-i-Riyasat was elected by the Constituent Assembly for a term of 5 years.